

TOGETHER...WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Welcome to
IMPACT

Welcome to Wesley Urban Ministries "Impact", the first edition of our semi annual newsletter.

— With our night program we are making an "impact" for those who previously had no where to go and were at risk to our winter elements.

— Our child poverty study kit will offer each of us an opportunity to determine and act upon how we can make an "impact".

— The expanding street youth program is an example of how we together have made an "impact" on the lives of the young people who find their way to us but also an example of making an impact on government.

Wesley Urban Ministries as your outreach ministry, expanding the work of your church beyond the traditional walls does have an "impact" on our community.

Together...we can make a difference. Thank you and God bless you.

Birgitt Bolton

Birgitt Bolton
Executive Director

URBAN MUNICIPAL

AUG 24 1991

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

OFFERING SANCTUARY

"Beyond the Daytime"

Drop in Centre now open 12:00 a.m. — 7 days a week.

At this moment we are well into the night program. To date we have registered over 325 different people, of whom about 20 are here over 1/2 of the nights. What is offered? A place is provided to get inside, to be warm, to be safe. Access to washrooms, showers; provision for shampoo, soap, toothpaste/brush, razor; even emergency clothing is available. There is always coffee/tea/milk, donuts, muffins, sandwiches, cookies, soup, and breakfast around 7:00 a.m. People are free to sleep on the floor, or benches; or they can talk, play cards, read. There is no organized programme other than counsellors always being available to talk with.

Who are these people? Mostly men, in their middle years, who are in difficult circumstances. There are, however, about 6 women, in their middle years who are homeless all the time. Because of their emotional, and psychological instability they find it almost impossible to keep shelter. There are some who find themselves temporarily homeless — locked out, too drunk to get home, spent, lost or robbed of all money, on the move from one community to another. Sometimes it is a sudden, serious crisis — laid off, fired, unemployment delayed, not able to pay rent. Or an on-going problem, like the couple who are living in a truck, though working, because a landlord has garnisheered their wages.

On a given shift we will see between 35 to 40 people. Eight of them will be women; eight will be under 21; ten will be native; four will be fifty-five or over. As far as we can tell, sixteen will have a history of confinement in a hospital or prison. An equal number will have serious problems with alcohol or drugs.

Art Perrell

"THE CHRIST OF THE BREADLINES"



Child Poverty Study Program Soon to be Available Workshop Leaders are Needed.

Wesley Urban Ministries, in partnership with the Economic Justice Committee of Hamilton Conference is developing a study program challenging each of us to investigate child poverty in our own communities.

Participants will have the opportunity to develop that realization into their own action plan to ensure their role in helping ease the pain of Child poverty.

Imagine the child born to a young mother struggling to survive on social assistance. As you peer into the nursery you see new life, and hope. Yet, for the child born to the family caught in poverty, that hope is as fragile as a newborn.

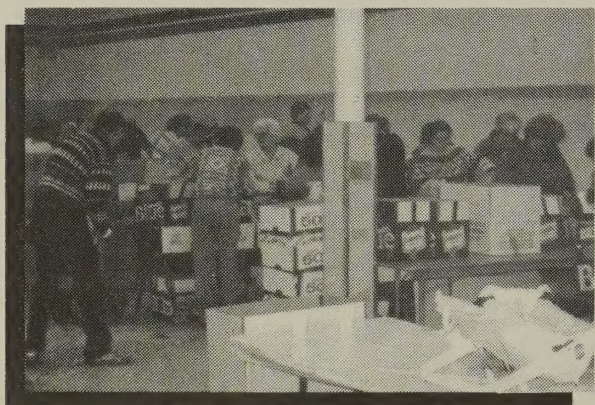
Statistically the child:

- will have a higher incidence of developing chronic health disorders;
- will be more likely to be involved in the child welfare system;
- will have a higher incidence of poor academic performance.

The barriers to that child breaking out of a poverty driven lifestyle are enormous. It is more likely the cycle will continue and that the child will become an adult struggling in poverty.

The study program will help you identify those barriers and define how each of us can help to break them down. Resource materials will be available for use in September. We will be recruiting interested volunteers to train to become group leaders for the workshops. If you are interested, or would like further information please call Barry English, Wesley Urban Ministries, 528-5629.

Barry English



The True Spirit
of Community
Volunteerism

Wesley Volunteers, Help Make Food Drive Happen

Many thanks to the Wesley Volunteers who were on hand at the recent community food drive. Together with volunteers from other Greater Hamilton Foodshare member agencies, they sorted and packed 163,960 lbs. of food.

While this sounds like, and in fact is a tremendous amount of food, reality is, it won't last long. The continuous and dramatic increases in need for emergency food will most certainly be a challenge we must be prepared to respond to in 1991/92.

When you are packing
it seems like so much food,
yet the reality is,
it's nowhere near enough.

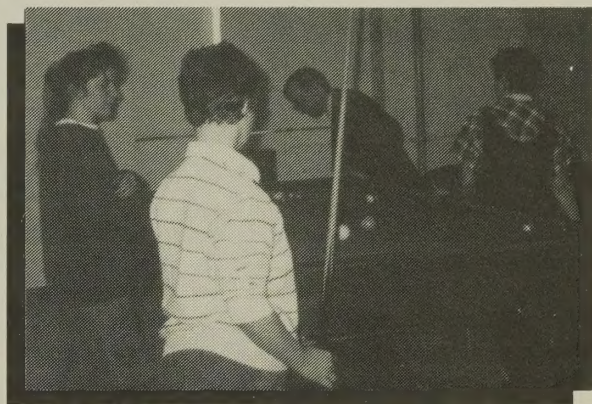


Street Youth Program Expanded \$16,000 Still Needs to be Raised.

This represents Wesley Urban Ministries contribution along with the \$69,000 from the Ministry of Community and Social Services and \$12,000 from the Regional Social Services towards expanding our Street Youth Program.

Commencing April 1st, the program is being offered seven days a week.

Recall back to 1986 when we became aware of a growing number of young people spending significant time on the streets. As frustrating and painful as it is to witness adults struggling to survive on the streets, the pain is magnified when we see young teenagers facing the same struggles.



Young people may come in
"first" to play pool.

We had to respond!

Our Christian sense of social justice would not allow us to witness children growing towards a life of homelessness.

In 1987, with the support of our partners within the United Church congregations of Hamilton Presbytery, our Street Youth program began.

Originally we were seeing 10 - 12 young people per day. Now 50 - 60 use the program each day.

While the individuals are burdened with their own painful backgrounds we can draw some similarities.

- many have fallen through the cracks of our Child Welfare system.
- almost all have lost the ability to trust, adults, the community and even themselves.
- **to make the expanded program a reality and continue its growth we need your continuing support!**
- to ensure the \$16,000 for the current program is realized;
- to ensure our new found partnership with both levels of government is expanded to meet all of the needs of the young people caught on the streets, so that a 24 hour drop in program can be a reality.

We have made a difference but there is still much we need to accomplish...together.

Volunteer Opportunities

1. Volunteers to work in food preparation: chopping, dicing, peeling, serving soup and lunches.
2. Volunteers to work in the food and clothing stores.
3. Volunteer to serve as receptionist in the food & clothing stores.

For further information call Barry English 528-5629

Friday

by Ken Caveney

***This is the street
where the lonely walk***
*Where the junkie, the hooker,
And the judged take stock.
"What's life all about?"
They all seem to ask.
Aloneness...indifference...
Life, such a task.*

*This is the street
where the lonely walk.
Nobody cares.
Not one will talk.
Kids die of suicide...
with drug-crazed stare:
Will anyone help?
Does anyone care?*

*This is the street
where the lonely walk.
Old folks alone...
with one friend, death.
Just waiting, waiting for
their last lonely breath.*

*Yes...this is the street
Where the lonely walk.*



WESLEY URBAN MINISTRIES

*I, want to be a "good neighbour" to the many homeless,
and marginalized children, men and women who seek hope*



Work with
children



Street youth
program



Emergency
services



Wherever it is
needed most

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____ Congregation _____

A Reminder:

*Please make your cheque payable to Wesley Urban Ministries and send it with this card in the envelope provided.
Your contribution is tax deductible, and a receipt will be mailed to you shortly. Our Charitable # is 059-1156-09-14*

"And the second great commandment is Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

St. Matthew 22:39

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